



American College of Surgeons

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March 19, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

On behalf of the more than 75,000 members of the American College of Surgeons, I write to restate that the College shares your commitment to make quality health care more accessible to all Americans. Over the past year and a half, the College has consistently sought to serve as a constructive voice for reform, guided by the College's principles of promoting quality and safety, improving patient access to surgical care, enacting meaningful medical liability reform, and reducing health care costs.

Last November, the College, consistent with its commitment to these principles, was pleased to support the *Affordable Health Care for America Act* (H.R. 3962) and the *Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act* (H.R. 3961). We believe that these two pieces of legislation would not only reform our health care system but also provide the firm foundation that health reform needs to make quality health care more accessible to all Americans.

It was because of this same commitment to our core principles that the College opposed the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2009* (H.R. 3590) when it was considered in the United States Senate in December 2009. The College was deeply disappointed with the Senate's decision to not address several provisions that we believe will have a negative effect on surgical patients and the surgeon's ability to provide quality, efficient health care including the creation of the unelected, unaccountable Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), the failure to address the surgical workforce shortage, the absence of a permanent repeal to the sustainable growth rate (SGR) and implementation of a new Medicare payment system, and the lack of meaningful liability reform.

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The College's principles underscore our commitment to health care reform that will extend coverage and improve access to quality health care to more Americans. Without addressing these fundamental concerns, the College believes H.R. 3590 will undermine quality and threaten patient access to surgical care. Therefore, the College opposes the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2009* (H.R. 3590). However, we remain steadfast in our role as champions for meaningful health care reform that is in the best interest of our patients.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of LaMar McGinnis in blue ink.

LaMar McGinnis, MD, FACS
President

Handwritten signature of Brent Eastman in blue ink.

Brent Eastman MD, FACS
Chair of the Board of Regents

Handwritten signature of David Hoyt in blue ink.

David Hoyt, MD, FACS
Executive Director